

This is the public's chance to see if our airways have been bought and paid for by the big corporate interests. This is a chance for the FCC to demonstrate that it will enforce the law and that it will honor its mandate to guarantee that the public interest be served. If this action by Sinclair Broadcasting is allowed, the consequences to the industry will be devastating. The grass roots movement to reject media consolidation will be given ammunition to bring antitrust action to break up these conglomerates. It seems to many of us that Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Your previous example of ignoring public comment doesn't give me much hope. Those of us who want our country back from you people in Washington still have the power of the vote to counter your lobbyists' money.

Thank you.